Towards a new generation of (agri-) food policies

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The challenge: transforming the way we eat, produce, distribute food
Three questions

1. Why do we need a new generation of policies?
2. What are the qualities that a new generation of policies should have?
3. What should be done to foster a new generation of policies?
1. Why do we need a new generation of policies?

achieving the transition to net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 will require 'economic and societal transformations ..., engaging all sectors of the economy and society’

(European Commission 2018, *A strategic long term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy*)
Climate change on trial: The European countries taking their governments to court

source: euronews.green
Source: Based on EEA, 2014.
A new generation of policies: Transformative policies
2. What qualities should transformative policies have?

NEW VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

NEW KNOWLEDGE BASE

NEW INTERVENTION LOGICS
New values and principles:
From the Washington Consensus to the Sustainable Development consensus
A new knowledge base

sustainable  ecosystem
diets  socio-technical
innovation  system  complexity
sufficiency  circularity
agroecology  resilience  telecoupling
diversity  nexus  transformation
socio-ecological
Transformative intervention logic

- Systemic
- Coherent
- Strategy-based
Implications of system approaches

(multiple) Drivers

(Interdependent) Food System Actors / Activities

(multiple) Outcomes
Systemic

Socio-ecological
Ecology, Earthsystems science, social sciences, etc.

Socio-economic
Political economy, sociology, philosophy, positive psychology, etc.

Socio-technical
Evolutionary economics innovation studies, geography, etc.

Co-evolution
Complexity
Emergence
Uncertainties
Lock-ins
Non-linearities
Feedbacks
Trade-offs

source: EEA, 2019
Coherent?
Understanding policy reform as a process

Problem definition

Evaluation and learning

Agenda setting

Implementation

Policy design
Coherence as a process

Current policies

Overarching goals

- civil society
- media
- responsible business
- research
- niche innovation
- consumers’ behavior
Strategy-based

Visions

Long-term goals

Pathways
Barriers

- Hard
  - technological
  - financial
- soft
  - institutional
  - cultural
Enablers

source: UNEP
Experiments as components of the process
3. What should be done to encourage a new generation of policies?
## Policy mixes for transformation

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**Network governance**
- Science-policy interfaces
- Living Labs / Policy Labs
Transformative governance

- Agriculture
- Environment
- Health, social
Questions for transformative governance

• what actors should be involved?
  • inclusiveness, pluralism
  • the role of science
• how to ensure participants’ commitment to transformation?
• how to manage different views?
• what should be the rules of interaction?
  • learning, experimentation, reflexivity, monitoring, feedback
Thank you!